



HAMILTON COUNTY
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

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MINUTES

LEPC Meeting, May 14, 2003

A meeting of the Hamilton County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was held May 14, 2003 at Wally's Restaurant in East Ridge, Tennessee.

Those in attendance were:

Jamie Farrow, Chairperson, Barge, Waggoner, Sumner and Cannon (BWSC)
Bruce Garner, First Vice Chair, Chattanooga Fire Department
Dane Creel, Vice Chairman, Nabisco, Inc.
Wayne Stuntz, Secretary, Hamilton County Emergency Services
David Darnell, Vice Chairman, BASF
Larry Reich, Tri-State Security Agency
Michael Poe, SOFIX Corp.
Denise Thacker, Velsicol Chemical
Caroline Williams, League of Women Voters
Tim Nance, DPC Enterprises
Michael Campbell, DPC Enterprises
Girsih Patel, ALCO Chemical
Paul Patty, Sonitrol
Gerald Ellis, Sonitrol
Mike Edwards, McKee Foods
Mike Brooks, East Ridge Fire Dept.
Leah Morrison, TN American Water
Dusty Rominger, W.R. Grace
Mike James, Marion Environmental, Inc.
Brian Lopez-Cepero, City of Chattanooga
George Sivils, DuPont
David Kuster, Ixion Ceramics, Inc.
Mike Beavers, TVA-Sequoyah
Randall Ricketts, Hamilton County Health Dept.
Dan Scott, Astec, Inc.
Shirley Green, CARTA
Leslie Freeman, CARTA
John Bennett, JIT Terminal
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Those in Attendance (Cont):

Denny Day, Associated Emergency Service

Chairman Jamie Farrow called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

Old Business

The Chairman asked if everyone had received the minutes from the Mar 12, 2003 meeting. All in attendance indicated that they had and Chairman Farrow asked for a motion to approve minutes as written. Motion was made to accept minutes as written, seconded and unanimously approved by the committee at large.

The Chairperson thanked, by name, those companies that sent in contributions following the mail out of the LEPCs Annual Tier II donations letter.

There was a brief discussion regarding the trial-run of including a “link” to the County web site on the next LEPC meeting Agenda to view or retrieve the minutes of the last LEPC meeting.

The Secretary-Treasurer read the financial report handed out to those in attendance. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the financial report as written. A copy of the financial report is a matter of record.

New Business

Mr. David Darnell provided an update on the Training/Exercise Day 2003 to be held on June 27, 2003 at the Chattanooga Fire and Police Training Center. David reminded everyone that this training was being provided in part by a grant from the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) and it would be broken down into two training modules. The first session, starting at 8:00 a.m. to 11:30a.m., will be an Advanced Hazardous Materials Awareness Course sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of Transportation. Registration information will be sent to the LEPC membership and other mailings to fire departments/emergency management agencies in South East Tennessee. David said attendance would be limited to 60 people—and it is a free of charge training.

David said that the afternoon session would run from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and will consist of a Crisis Management in Railroad Disasters exercise conducted by a consultant of CSX Transportation. He said that all written materials and computer services will be provided by CSX Transport. This exercise will be conducted in the gymnasium of the Fire & Police Training Center. David said to look for the registration information to be disseminated to all concerned within the next week or so.

Chairperson Jamie Farrow said that the Knox County Conference would be held Aug 26-27 at the Knoxville Convention Center. Jamie said that their program had not been finalized yet but their conference spokesperson would e-mail it to her the information when it became available.

Ms. Farrow asked sub-committee Chairpersons to give their respective reports. Plans sub-committee Chairman, Larry Martin was not in attendance. Mr. David Darnell, speaking on behalf of Mr. Bruce Garner, Chairman of the Exercise sub-committee said that the location for the exercise was finalized and it would be held at Ixion Ceramics on Manufacturers Rd. Mr. David Kuster of Ixion Ceramics said that they had two large, very hot kilns that had no sprinkler systems that the fire department would be concerned with as well as a 36K pound ammonia tank. Mr. Kuster said that a preliminary meeting would be conducted with Bruce Garner on Friday of this week. No date has been set for the exercise.

Ms Farrow said that since Mr. Dick Twitchell was not in attendance, there would be no update from the Membership sub-committee. Ms Farrow took this opportunity to ask if there was anyone in attendance that wanted to become an LEPC member—there were none at this time.

Ms Farrow thanked Mr. Mike Beavers of TVA for accepting the role of Chairman of the new Public Outreach sub-committee. Jamie mentioned that since the Chattanooga Made was not hosting their program in Chattanooga this year—that a whole year would go by without the LEPC providing outreach to the Chattanooga community. Ms Farrow said that the LEPC was working on obtaining a booth at the County Fair, held the last weekend in September, to provide this public outreach and that this booth would be required to be manned for the entire day, both days.

Ms Farrow took this opportunity to ask the committee about purchasing a banner or the like with the LEPC logo on it to display at public outreach events. Mr. Dusty Rominger made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lopez-Cepero, and approved by the Committee at large, for the Executive Committee to look into purchasing a table cover with the LEPC logo printed on it and cost not to exceed \$500.00. Mr. Denny Day questioned the status of purchasing “LEPC trinkets”. Ms Farrow reminded the committee that during the last LEPC meeting, a motion was made, seconded and approved by the committee at large to set aside \$500.00 to produce the trinkets. It was agreed that the cost of both items would not exceed \$1,000.00.

Mr. David Darnell, speaking on behalf of Mr. Bruce Garner, addressed issues addressed by the Information Security sub-committee. Mr. Darnell said that this sub-committee was of a temporary nature, its purpose fulfilled, and that it no longer exists. He said that because of the nature of the information that was available to the general public through EPA, some state agencies, and even our local LEPCs, that some control was necessary on how this information should be obtained.

Mr. Darnell provided a little background on research the sub-committee did regarding the issue of “information security” within the chemical industry. David read from a letter written by Ms. Jamie Conrad, an attorney with the American Chemical Council (ACC), quoted in part here—“...that the ACC is deeply concerned about the liberal accessibility of sensitive information for companies in the chemical processing industry. We have never agreed nor supported the original intent of EPA to make such information available in the first place to the wide population and we do support the FBI's posture on the non-publication period. We are taking verbatim from your concern expressed last Friday afternoon to members of Congress who are on the Homeland Security sub-committee. Follow-up from the council is expected in the very near future and we will keep you informed on how successful they are.”

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David said that EPA has instructed the Hamilton County LEPC to refer any inquiries regarding Risk Management Plans (RMPs), or Toxic Release Inventory's (TRIs) to the EPA Region 4 Headquarters in Atlanta. Mr. Darnell said that the General Accounting Office (GAO) has instructed EPA to set up reading rooms throughout the country—and that one does exist in EPA's Region 4 headquarters in Atlanta. David said that the same type of guidance came from the State. Ms. Betty Eaves, Title III Coordinator for the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA), has instructed the sub-committee to refer any inquiries regarding Tier II reports to her office.

In response to these instructions, the Information Security sub-committee is presently developing an instruction/guidance sheet (with contact names, telephone numbers, and web-site addresses) that will be presented to anyone requesting such information on chemical/manufacturing facilities in Hamilton County.

Following the sub-committee updates, Ms. Farrow turned the meeting over to Dane Creel who introduced our guest speaker for the day—Mr. Thom Benson, meteorologist at Channel 3 Eyewitness News. Mr. Benson said that weather wise, the past two weeks has been the most active across the country, in history—over 400 tornadoes for the first 11 days in May, the most in any May on record. Thom said that due to the nature of weather and its effects on various outcomes, those in the chemical industry and emergency responders know that weather can be a great determinant in the response to a chemical incident.

Mr. Benson explained how the Volumetric Imaging and Processing of Integrated Radar (VIPER), exclusive to Channel 3, and very helpful to meteorologist, takes the four closest weather service Doppler sites, and as the radar sweeps 360 degrees, it provides four different slices of the atmosphere in a five minute period of time—sort of like an MRI given by a hospital. Mr. Benson said that this is particularly effective in looking at thunderstorms and puts them into a 3 dimensional mode—like they have never seen it before.

He said that this technology finds the storm, keeps building a memory of the storm's location and takes the past 30 minute memory which allows the VIPER system to predict its location 30 minutes in the future—which gives the community time to take appropriate action, and sometimes 5 minutes before the National Weather Service puts out a warning for a particular area. Following his presentation, Mr. Benson offered his assistance to anyone who thought his services would be helpful in preparing a weather response portion of a company emergency plan.

Ms. Farrow thanked Mr. Benson for his excellent presentation. Ms. Farrow said the next meeting would take place July 9, 2003, 10:30 a.m. at Wally's Restaurant in East Ridge. After which the meeting adjourned.

